POL 15 Kypr

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

27 Cypr

SECRET

Action
SS
Info

ZCQMA420VV ATA111
RR RUEHC RUEPJS RUFRC RUFPBK
DE RUQMAT 411A 1981730
ZNY SSSSS
R 1715 00Z JUL 67
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUEPJS/SECDEF
RUEPJS/DIA
RUEPJS/JCS
RUFRC/USDOCOSOUTH
RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
ZEN/AMEMBASSY PARIS
ZEN/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T ATHENS 411

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JULY 17, 1967, 1:54PM

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DIA AND DA FOR ACSI/DFIRR

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1. SOURCE ASKED KING IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO RUMORE AND REPORTS THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT MAY ATTEMPT A COUP IN CYPRUS. KING SAID THAT GOVT HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED EXCEPT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO UNILATERAL ACTION WHICH MIGHT PRECIPITATE WAR WITH TURKEY. IF AT LETER DATE GOVT SHOULD DECIDE TO MAKE COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS THEY WOULD NOTIFY TURKS ABOUT IT BEFORE HAND. IN EVENT THAT GREEK AND TURKISH GOVTS SHOULD REACH AN AGREEMENT FOR SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM AND MAKARIOS SHOULD OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT THEN GREEK MILITARY FORCES ON CYPRUS WOULD PROBABLY CARRY OUT COUP AND OVERTHROW MAKARIOS. KING SAID THAT GREEK GOVT DOES NOT TRUST MAKARIOS AND KNOWS THAT HE DOES NOT WANT ENOSIS EVEN THOUGH HE STATES PUBLICLY THAT HE FAVORS ENOSIS, THEREFORE, THEY WOULD LIKE.

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TO OVERTHROW MAKARIOS. GREEK GOVT ALSO HAS LITTLE REGARD FOR GEN GRIVAS BUT THEY CAN CONTROL HIM.

2. KING SAID THAT RECENTLY TURKISH AMB URGENTLY REQUESTED AUDIENCE WHICH KING GAVE WITHIN THREE HOURS. AMB TOLD KING THAT TURKISH GOVT SENT HIM MESSAGE TO TELL KING THAT TURKISH GOVT WILL NOT HOLD DISCUSSIONS NOR MAKE ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE GOG CONCERNING CYPRUS UNLESS THE KING AGREES. KING'S RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH PREVIOUS AND PRESENT TURKISH AMBASSADORS WAS ALWAYS VERY CORDIAL. THEY KNOW THAT KING HAS SENSIBLE ATTITUDE TO CYPRUS PROBLEM AND IS SYMPATHETIC TO CONCESSIONS AND IS THEREFORE HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY TURKISH GOVT. KING SAID THAT GREEK GOVT IS ANXIOUS TO FIND SOLUTION TO CYPRUS SINCE COST OF MAINTAINING LARGE FORCES ON CYPRUS IS HURTING GREEK ECONOMY, AND THAT GREAT EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SOLVE CYPRUS PROBLEM. KING SAID THAT WHEN NEW CONSULTATIONS WILL BE HELD THEY WILL BE ON A HIGHER LEVEL THAN PREVIOUS TALKS, WITH THE PRIME

MINISTERS CONDUTING THE NEW DISCUSSIONS.

3. KING SAID THAT FEW DAYS AGO HE MET WITH COL PAPADOPOULOS WHO SEEMED VERY AGREEABLE AND TRIED TO CONVINCE KING THAT HE WAS FULLY BEHING KING. HE TOLD KING THE MONARCHY WAS VERY IMPORTANT AND IS NECESSARY FOR GREECE BECASUE KING ALREADY HAS HIS POSITION AND IS NOT ASPIRING TO ATTAIN A HIGHER POSITION, THEREFORE, HE HAS A MORE SENSIBLE VIEW AND OUTLOOK ON PROBLEMS THAN OTHERS WHO ARE ALWAYS LOOKING AT PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO THEIR OWN INTEREST AND AMBITIONS.

4. KING SAID THAT GREEK GOVT HAS BEEN CONSIDERING BUYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH THEY CANNOT AFFORT AND WHICH THEY WOULD BE BUYING PRIMARILY FOR DEFENSE AGAINST TURKEY. KING TOLD PAPADOPOULOS THAT HE IS AGAINST THIS PLAN SINCE IT IS A WASTE OF MONEY: THAT MORE EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TURKS AND SOME OF THE MONEY SAVED BY NOT

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BUYING WEAPONS SHOULD BE USED TO RAISE PAY OF OFFICERS WHICH IS VERY LOW. PAPADOPOULOS TOLD KING THAT HE AGREES 100 PERCENT, BUT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVT WANT TO BUY WEAPONS. WITH KING'S BACKING PAPADOPOULOS FELT THAT PURCHASE OF WEAPONS COULD BE DEFERRED. SOURECE MENTIONED TO KING THAT IF OFFICERS ARE GIVEN PAY RAISE THAT KING SHOULD TRY TO GET THE CREDIT FOR RAISE SINCE IF OFFICERS THINK JUNTA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISE THEY MIGHT BE MORE FAVORABLE TO JUNTA. KING SAID THAT HE HAD CONSIDERED THAT POINT AND HE PLANS TO "JUMP THE GUN" AND ANNOUNCE A RAISE IN A SPEECH WHEN MATTER IS MORE FIRM.

5. [redacted]

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